

Global Japanese Studies Education and Research Incubator

2026 Incubator-Supported Projects: Guidelines for Applicants

1 Overview

The **Global Japanese Studies Education and Research Incubator (GJS-ERI)** invites proposals for **Incubator-Supported Projects** that will facilitate fulfillment of both its educational and research goals. The Incubator will select and implement innovative projects that are in accordance with its characteristic alignment toward international and interdisciplinary development and its intent to serve the surrounding community. The objectives of this undertaking are to promote the creation of human networks broadly based in Japanese Studies that go beyond existing frameworks, to develop education projects that cultivate global-minded talent, and to build a new research hub capable of disseminating research globally. By actively encouraging international, interdisciplinary, and community-oriented projects that would be difficult to execute in existing forums, the Incubator aims to develop a new platform for education and research in Japanese Studies.

2 Project Guidelines

With this overview in mind, the Incubator seeks proposals for projects in the categories of **Education Program Development** and **Research Network Development** that adhere to the guidelines described below.

① Project Representative

The project representative must be employed full-time by the University of Osaka. As a rule, the project representative will be granted a concurrent post at the Incubator upon adoption of the project. A specially-appointed instructor can apply if and only if the project has another University of Osaka faculty member acting as a joint representative.

② Project Members

The project should include a number of members appropriate for the successful execution of the project. However, at least 2 members of the project (including the project representative) must be educators at the University of Osaka. In addition, projects should include a mixture of junior and senior scholars and give sufficient attention to such considerations as gender and ethnic balance. (Graduate students cannot participate as project members. Please employ them as research assistants or in similar roles within the project.) Finally, for projects in the Education Program Development category, please consult with the Head of the Human Resources Development Division at GJS-ERI before submitting your application.

③ Project Length

As a rule, projects should be 3 years in length.

④ Progress Report / Final Report

In addition to submitting an annual progress report (approximately 2 pages in length) for inclusion in the Incubator's Annual Report, a final report must be submitted at the end of the final year of the project. It is expected that Education Program Development projects will result in the implementation of new education programs and that Research Network Development projects will result in the production of one or more publications. In some cases, the Incubator may request that presentations on progress or final results be made at international symposia or workshops organized by the Incubator.

⑤ Funding

Adopted projects will receive startup grants of 500,000 yen for the 2026 academic year. (Availability of funding in 2027 and subsequent years is not yet determined.)

⑥ Number of Projects

It is expected that approximately 3 projects will be adopted.

⑦ Supplementary Information

In addition to receiving startup funding, adopted projects will receive publicity through active promotion on the website of the Incubator, and efforts will be made to increase awareness of the projects both domestically and internationally. As noted in the “Project Representative” section above, any University of Osaka project representative will normally be expected to hold a concurrent post at the incubator. The period of this concurrent appointment begins in October of the year in which the project is selected and continues until the project’s completion. After completion of the project, the project representative and GJS-ERI may discuss the possibility of extending the concurrent appointment.

3 Application Requirements

- ① Application Documents: The “Project Proposal” form must be completed and submitted via e-mail to the GJS-ERI Administrative Office before the deadline.
- ② Application Deadline: 12PM on Friday, June 12, 2026

4 Screening Process

Submissions will be evaluated and adopted or declined by the Steering Committee of the Global Japanese Studies Education and Research Incubator. As necessary, project representatives may be interviewed at the time of evaluation.

5 Screening Criteria

- ① Projects should be based in the field of Japanese Studies, broadly defined.
- ② Projects should incorporate international elements, interdisciplinary elements, and/or cooperation with the surrounding community.
- ③ Projects should promote the development of education projects that cultivate global-minded talent or promote the development of global research networks.
- ④ Projects should include a mixture of junior and senior scholars and give sufficient attention to gender and ethnic balance.

6 Notification of Results

Around early July, 2026 (tentative)

7 Contact Information

Inquiries

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Submission

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May 1, 2026 Global Japanese Studies Education and Research Incubator Steering Committee